



ARIZONA WILDFIRE ACADEMY

P.O. Box 2554, Prescott, AZ 86302
Phone: 928-442-3563 Fax: 928-771-0407

Don Howard, Commander
e-mail: dhoward@infomagic.net

Kori Kirkpatrick, Coordinator
e-mail: firecamp@localnet.com

For Immediate Release – Jan. 13, 2006

**Contact: Jackie Denk, 928-635-5607
Cell 928-606-7490**

Arizona Firefighters To Receive Training In Preparation For 2006 Fire Season

WILLIAMS, Ariz. – Firefighters from across the State of Arizona are invited to attend the fourth annual Arizona Wildfire Academy in order to receive training in preparation for the 2006 fire season. The academy, which will offer about 40 training classes, will be held March 18-24 at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott.

The deadline for early registration in academy classes is Sunday. Most courses still have space available. Student tuition at the academy is \$50 per day, which includes all course materials, breakfast, lunch and tent camping on site at Embry-Riddle. Hotel accommodations are available at additional cost.

“I believe that we offer some of the best training anywhere for the money,” said Don Howard, the commander for the academy. “The courses we offer range from basic to advanced and are taught by people well respected in their fields. We are proud of the training we offer and hope that as many people as possible take advantage of it.”

For those interested in the training but unable to secure funding, the academy is also offering scholarships to help offset costs. According to Howard, some rural fire departments might not be able to send students because they don't have the financial resources to cover tuition. They should consider applying for scholarships, Howard said.

Academy students include firefighters in federal, state, local and volunteer departments from all over the state. Besides working to provide the skills and technical expertise required to meet the challenge that wildland fire poses, academy organizers also hope to provide a forum where firefighters from diverse backgrounds can learn to work together to manage a common threat.

“The 2006 fire season is shaping up to be a long and intense one,” said Howard, who is also the chief of the Summit Fire Department in Flagstaff. “Part of our mission at the academy is to help prepare Arizona firefighters to safely and effectively accomplish the missions that they are asked to perform.”

The Arizona Wildfire Academy is a non-profit organization with the mission of developing professional and safe responses in the wildland environment by offering training and education that meet National Wildfire Coordinating Group standards.



ARIZONA WILDFIRE ACADEMY

P.O. Box 2554, Prescott, AZ 86302
Phone: 928-442-3563 Fax: 928-771-0407

Don Howard, Commander
e-mail: dhoward@infomagic.net

Kori Kirkpatrick, Coordinator
e-mail: firecamp@localnet.com

Training courses scheduled to be offered at the 2006 academy include Basic Firefighting and Wildland Fire Behavior; Map and Compass; Wildfire Power Saws; Fire Operations in the Urban Interface; Basic Air Operations; Fire Suppression Tactics; Tactical Decision Games/Sand Table Exercises; Incident Command; Type 3 Command and General Staff; and, many others. The most recent additions to the academy course roster were two fire investigation classes – FI-110: Wildland Fire Cause Determination, and, FI-210: Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination. Both classes are new to the academy in 2006. Another “all risk” course that was added for 2006 was S-258: Communications Technician. The class will use the National Interagency Fire Center Radio Cache and will provide a hands-on learning experience in the development of a communications system, including repeaters. Academy coordinators said that the communications class was important because of the great need for communications technicians during the past two hurricane seasons.

To register for the academy, please visit the Arizona Wildfire Academy Web site at www.azwildfireacademy.org or call 928-442-3563. To apply for a scholarship, please contact Howard by phone at 928-606-2668 or by email at dhoward@infomagic.net, or contact Jim Pond, deputy commander for the academy, by phone at 928-606-3957 or by email at jpond@highlandsfire.org.

-USFS-